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Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NICOSI 00692 310944 Z

14
ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14

USIA-12 OMB-01 RSR-01 /117 W
---------- 073636
R 310910 Z MAR 73
FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7158
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ANTHENS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION UN
USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T NICOSIA 692

EO11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS CY
SBUJECT: GRIVAS CAPABILITIES

1. WE HAVE RECEIVED NO SUBSTANTIATION OF
PRESS REPORTS OF A POSSIBLE COUP BY GRIVAS FOLLOWERS
APRIL 1 AND CONTINUE TO BE SKEPTICAL ABOUT THEM.

2. MOST OF OUR LOCAL CONTACTS AGREE THAT GRIVAS WOULD TODAY
BE UNABLE TO TOPPLE CYPRUS GOVT BY A DIRECT THRUST FOR
POWER. IN OUR VIEW HE SIMPLY DOES NOT HAVE THE
ORGANIZED MASS BACKING OR SUFFICIENT PARAMILITARY MANPOWER
TO DO THE JOB.

3. A MORE SOMBER VIEW IS TAKEN BY UNSYG SPECREP
OSORIO- TAFALL. HE BELIEVES, WITH SOME JUSTIFICATION,
THAT GOVTS INABILITY AND FAILURE TO COUNTERACT EFFEC-
TIVELY SCORES OF POLICE STATION RAIDS HAS ALREADY
SHAKEN GOVT AUTHORITY AND MAY, IF RAIDS CONTINUE,
BEGIN TO ERODE IT MUCH MORE QUICKLY. HE ALSO BELIEVES GOVT
BUREAURACY, TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS AGENCIES,
EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM, AND NATIONAL GUARD ARE DEEPLY AND IN-
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CREASINGLY INFILTRATED BY GRIVASITES. EXTRAPOLATING FROM ALL OF THIS, HE BELIEVES IT QUITE CONCEIVABLE THAT AT SOME POINT NOT IN TOO DISTANT FUTURE GOVT COULD BE OVERTHROWN.

4. WE THINK THIS VIEW EXCESSIVELY GLOOMY, BUT SINCE ESTIMATES ON THIS SUBJECT NECESSARILY CONTAIN A LARGE QUOTIENT OF INTUITION, IT CANNOT BE BRUSHED ASIDE ENTIRELY. ON BALANCE WE BELIEVE THAT AS REGARDS POLICE STATION RAIDS GOVT HAS LEANED OVER BACKWARD TO AVOID PROVOKING GRIVAS SUPPORTERS; THAT ENOSIST SENTIMENT IN SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES IS GENERALIZED AND UNFOCUSSED; THAT ASIDE FROM POLICE, BUREAUCRACY SHOWS NO OPEN SIGN OF DISAFFECTION; AND THAT NATIONAL GUARD WILL NOT RALLY TO GRIVAS SUPPORT, BUT IS MORE LIKELY TO REMAIN NEUTRAL.
POPPER

SECRET

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** SECRET

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Disposition Remarks:
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ANTHENS
LONDON
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NEA
SECSTATE WASHDC
UN

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